



The Gleaner

Immanuel Lutheran Church

November 2019

The Gleaner is a publication of:

Immanuel Lutheran Church
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Immanuel has an online church directory. Visit our website and check it out! Contact the office for your username and password.

Mission
Joyfully Christian.
Humbly Serving.
Boldly Loving.



The Refugee Crisis

Join us for a short video and discussion!
Sunday's in-between services 10:15 – 11 a.m.
The nursery will be open, and children, age 6 and older will have a Sunday School hour.

There are more than 20 million refugees in the world today – men, women, and children forced from their homes by violence and persecution. What was once a humanitarian issue has become a political issue, even in the church. After decades of offering safety, shelter, and security to refugees, the United States has placed new limits on the number of refugees allowed and enacted tighter restrictions on refugees from particular countries, actions that are quickly bringing the number of refugees resettled into the US to a record low. As a nation, and as people of faith, we are divided over the issue. The Refugee Crisis invites readers to look beyond the headlines and into the real experiences of displaced people to determine what a faith-filled response to this ongoing crisis might look like.

Nov 10 – The Story We Live In
(The history of the churches response to refugees)

Nov 17 – A People Without A Place
(The global immigration crisis)

Nov 24 – A Global Perspective
(International policy and the ongoing crisis)

Dec 1 – A Network of Care
(The critical role of settlement agencies)

Dec 8 – Facing Our History
(Otherness, race, and the American challenge)

A Letter from Pr. Dana....

Dear friends in Christ,

Happy November! It is time to lift our hands in praise and thanksgiving! There are so many things in our lives and in our church that give us grateful hearts. As a special way to honor and thank God for all our blessings, we will have the Thank-Full Tree in the narthex. Throughout this month, we invite you to take a leaf, to write down something that you are thankful for, and to place the leaf on the tree.

On November 10, we will hear from Mike Piatek-Jimenez about his trip to Papua New Guinea. He is grateful for our support and wants to share with us his experience. We, too, are thankful to be part of a larger church body that reaches out around the world with the love of Christ. Papua New Guinea is just one of the many ELCA mission partners throughout the world.

On November 17, we will give thanks for all the ways we give glory to God by sharing our building with the community. Our building is used for so much more than worship (e.g. ICRH, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Outreach registration, AIM friendship classes, blood drive, food distributions, 8-cap parent groups/play groups, Samaritas trainings...).

On November 24, we will praise God for your gifts to Immanuel as we will celebrate the completion of our very successful capital campaign!

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 107: 1

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Ephesians 1:3

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. 1 Chronicles: 16: 4

In Christ, we are full of thanks, or as we will be saying this month, Thank-full! We get to join the saints before us, the great cloud of witnesses, with joyful hearts that we are children of God who is our rock and our foundation!

In thanksgiving for you,
Pastor Dana

2020 Pledge Cards

In the month of November, we will be inviting you to fill out a pledge card. As you prayerfully consider your 2019-2020 giving to Immanuel we would like to be transparent that we were in the red by \$45,000 in the 2018-2019 year. We are still ok, but cannot afford another year with that big of a loss. The stewardship team did the math and if:

25 members increased their giving by \$10 a month

25 members increased their giving by \$25 a month

25 members increased their giving by \$50 a month

25 members increased their giving by \$75 a month

we would be in the black for the 2019-2020 year!

Please prayerfully consider this while filling out your pledge card.

Worship Ministry

The Noisy Offering

The noisy offering on November 24 will be given to Community Compassion Network.

A collection jar is located in the Narthex throughout the month for your convenience.



Mark your calendars!

We will have a combined worship service at 10am on the following dates:

Sunday, Dec. 15 (Children's Program)

Sunday, Dec. 22 (Lessons & Carols)

Sunday, Dec. 29



Thanksgiving
DINNER

On Thursday, November 28 from noon to 1:30, Immanuel will host its Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the community. This event is free of charge and open to anyone who is looking for a great place to have a hot turkey dinner with all of the fixings!

If you are interested in volunteering for the dinner OR if you are able to donate a dish for the meal, please sign up in the Narthex! Once again, Ric's Food Center has graciously agreed to donate ALL of our turkeys. We just need people to help us to get them all cooked! Please contact the office if you have any questions regarding this wonderful opportunity!

Community Input: Praises and Pinches

To be a healthy, faithful community, Immanuel needs to be open with what we expect in all areas of life. If there is anything in our community life that brings joy or causes concern, please share any feelings and questions. Thank you for taking the time to communicate ways we are doing well in our ministry at Immanuel and the areas that need attention. Your Mutual Ministry Team needs your feedback. If you would like a personal response to your "praise" or "pinch," please be sure to sign this form at the bottom.

To discuss a concern directly with the Mutual Ministry Team or one of the Team members, please indicate below.

Praises: _____

Pinches: _____

Desired Outcome: _____

Is it OK to publish in Gleaner? ___Yes ___No (Name must be posted if you wish for this to appear in Gleaner.)

A specific question I would like answered: _____

Name _____

Ministry with Each Other

Plastic Bags Update

We are NO LONGER collecting plastic bags in the lobby as CCN is well-stocked! Please consider recycling them at Meijer or WalMart.

Thank You!!!

Theological Discussions with Pr. Dana

Please join us in the Capital Room on **THURSDAYS** at 11am for a discussion on The Refugee Crisis.



Pr. Dana will be out of town
December 2-9
and
December 30-January 4



Thanks to all who participated in the Fall Church Clean Up. We accomplished everything on our list. Inside we washed windows and cleaned carpets. We trimmed the pine trees, stacked branches, and picked up pinecones. Out at the shed we cleaned and covered the eave troughs, fixed all downspouts, stacked the picnic tables, and swept the shed patio.

Special thanks: Ed Berthold, Ryan, Laney, Luke & Audrey Douglas, John Emmons, Roger Gilbert, Bill Jensen, Harry & Billie Plouff, Dave Simon, Sam Staples, and Fred & Chris Schuster.



- 1 Christian Jurick
- 6 Jennifer Digmann
- 6 Deb Reimer
- 7 Matt Keller
- 11 Ted Tuma
- 12 Harry Plouff
- 13 Jonathan Jurick
- 14 Dan Eversole
- 14 Hans Fetting
- 14 Sarah LaBelle
- 14 Alana Piatek-Jimenez
- 15 Alicia Podolsky
- 16 Jeff Reimer
- 18 Marcilyn Barnard
- 19 Shenan Davidson
- 19 Ben Ferguson
- 19 Charlie Schwerin
- 22 Pr. Dana Hendershot
- 24 Whitnee Foote
- 24 Peggy Recker
- 26 John Foote
- 26 Amy Powell
- 30 Martha Goodrich



REMINDER:

Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 2nd!

Contributing Stocks or Bonds

To contribute capital gain property such as stocks or bonds to the church, per IRS Publication 526 you can deduct the Fair Market Value of the asset on your personal tax returns - not the basis in the asset. Immanuel has a brokerage account to facilitate the transfer of these assets directly. If you are interested, please contact the church for information or assistance.

Immanuel Offers Electronic Giving

Immanuel Lutheran Church is pleased to offer an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

Visit our website, www.immanuelmp.com click on the money sign (\$) and sign up! Please contact the church office if you have questions. **IMMANUEL NOW ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS!!**

Tax Break for Contributions –people over 70 years-old

If you are over 70.5 did you know that you can give directly from your retirement account to Immanuel Lutheran Church and pay no taxes on the gift? Due to the tax changes that include a higher standard deduction and the elimination of the personal exemption, you may receive the best tax benefit if you donate directly from your retirement account.

Financial Corner

2019-2020 Spending Plan:
\$360,354

Sept 2019 Actual Expenditures
\$33,935.02

September 2019 Income
\$18,332.33

September 2018 Income
\$19,553.00

Capital Campaign Update



Amount Pledged: \$147,945
Amount Received: \$155,972

DONATIONS

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH ISABELLA COUNTY DEC 6 & 7

**DONATE
ITEMS**

On your own or through a
Community Organization please
give new or gently used:

WINTER COATS, HATS, MITTENS,
SCARVES, BOOTS, QUILTS, LINENS,
TOWELS, BLANKETS, SHEETS,
NEW PILLOWS, CHRISTMAS TREES,
CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS,
CHILDREN BOOKS, HOME CARE
PRODUCTS & STOCKING STUFFERS

**FINANCIAL DONATIONS ARE
GREATLY APPRECIATED**

Send your check to:

Christmas Outreach

P.O. Box 1227 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804

Your contribution is tax deductible.

**DROP OFF ITEMS AT FINCH
WEEK OF MONDAY DEC 2ND**

Ministry with Community & World

The Care Store

Located in the Strickler Non-Profit Center on west High street is The Care Store. They are helping to provide personal hygiene and household cleaning products (items not eligible for retail purchase with a Bridge card) to individuals in need who have earned Care Bucks from one of 25 local human services agencies. Immanuel is one of the partner churches who are trying to help supply these needs. Our collection site is located just outside Craig's office door. Although there are many needed items, the top 10 needs are: Laundry detergent, trash bags, Brooms/mops, Body wash, Body lotion, Disinfectant cleaning supplies, Feminine Hygiene products, Shampoo/conditioner, Incontinence products, Paper products. A flyer and product list are available on the collection rack. Please consider purchasing an item or two on your shopping trips.

Questions??- check with the office or with Denise Kaiser or Paul Kruska
Additionally, there are volunteer opportunities available at several of the Strickler Center agencies.



Thank you to ALL who helped with our first ICRH week of the season! We appreciated your time and your food donations!

Special thanks to Joe Anderson, Jennifer Digmann & Ryan Douglas for organizing this event on behalf of Immanuel.



Bless all the helpers who made our Red Cross Blood Drive a success ~ workers Ed Berthold, Kathy Gatten, Judy Emmons, Thomas Ferguson, Roger Gilbert, Carolyn Hoffman, Joann Johnson, Sue Knight, Paul Kruska, Harry & Billie Plouff, Rose Prasad, Bonnie Schaeffer, Kathy Smith, and Donna Swenson. Your friendly smiles, chats, and treats made donors feel welcome and appreciated! Also thank you to the donors who gave much needed blood.

2019 Blood Drive Team